CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for opening and closing a portal having first and second ends in a structure comprising, in combination:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins of said portal;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of the lateral margins, with said first end being fixedly attached across said portal at a first end thereof, said second end folded back on itself to define a pocket opening toward said first end;

c) a first elongated rod captured within said pocket;

d) means operatively connected to said second end for varying the height of said pocket; and

e) means for magnetically urging said pocket toward said lateral margins.

2. Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein each said lateral margin has a magnetically attractable support surface and said means for magnetically urging comprises at least one magnet operatively mounted to each opposing end of said first rod.

3. Apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein each said magnetically attractable support surface comprises a metal strip affixed to said lateral margin.

4. Apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein each at least one magnet is operatively mounted within each said opposing end of said first rod.

5. Apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein each at least one magnet is rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said first rod.

6. Apparatus as defined in claim 5 further comprising a magnet housing assembly rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said first rod, each said housing assembly having said at least one magnet connected thereto.

7. Apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein said at least one magnet is a cylindrical magnet having a central bore mounted for rotation about a mounting rod passing therethrough.

8. Apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said at least one magnet comprises a plurality of cylindrical magnets, each said magnet having a central bore mounted in axial alignment for rotation about said mounting rod passing therethrough.

9. Apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said at least one magnet comprises a first pair of cylindrical magnets having a central bore mounted in axial alignment for rotation about a first mounting rod passing therethrough and a second pair of cylindrical magnets having a central bore mounted in axial alignment about a second mounting rod passing therethrough.

10. Apparatus as defined in claim 8 further comprising at least one cylindrical spacer member interposed between two adjacent cylindrical magnets.

11. Apparatus as defined in claim 6 wherein each said magnet housing assembly has an inclined upper surface.

12. Apparatus as defined in claim 1 further comprising means for guiding said opposing ends of said first rod along a path generally parallel to the plane of said lateral margins.

13. Apparatus as defined in claim 12 wherein said means for guiding comprises opposing channel members.

14. Apparatus as defined in claim 1 further comprising a second elongated rod supported on and separated from said first elongated rod by said second end of said curtain, wherein each said lateral margin has a magnetically attractable support surface and said means for magnetically urging comprises at least one magnet operatively connected to each opposing end of said second rod.

15. Apparatus as defined in claim 14 wherein each at least one magnet is operatively mounted within said second rod.

16. Apparatus as defined in claim 14 wherein each at least one magnet is rotatably mounted to said second rod.

17. Apparatus as defined in claim 16 further comprising a magnet housing assembly rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said second rod, each said housing assembly having said at least one magnet connected thereto.

18. Apparatus as defined in claim 17 wherein said at least one magnet is a cylindrical magnet having a central bore mounted in axial alignment for rotation about a mounting rod passing therethrough.

19. Apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein said at least one magnet comprises a plurality of cylindrical magnets, each said magnet having a central bore

mounted in axial alignment for rotation about said mounting rod passing therethrough.

20. Apparatus as defined in claim 18 wherein said at least one magnet comprises a first pair of cylindrical magnets having a central bore mounted in axial alignment for rotation about a first mounting rod passing therethrough and a second pair of cylindrical magnets having a central bore mounted in axial alignment about a second mounting rod passing therethrough.

21. Apparatus as defined in claim 19 further comprising at least one cylindrical spacer member interposed between two adjacent cylindrical magnets.

22. Apparatus as defined in claim 17 wherein each said magnet housing assembly has an inclined upper surface.

23. Apparatus as defined in claim 14 further comprising means for guiding said opposing ends of said second rod along a path generally parallel to the plane of said lateral margins.

24. Apparatus as defined in claim 23 wherein said means for guiding comprises opposing channel members.

25. Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said means for magnetically urging comprises at least one magnetic strip affixed to each said lateral margin.

26. Apparatus for opening and closing a portal having first and second ends in a structure comprising, in combination:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins of said portal, wherein each said lateral margin has a magnetically attractable support surface;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of the lateral margins, with said first end being fixedly attached across said portal at a first end thereof, said second end folded back on itself to define a pocket opening toward said first end;

c) a first elongated rod captured within said pocket;

d) means operatively connected to said second end for varying the height of said pocket; and

e) means for magnetically connecting opposing ends of said first rod to said lateral margins.

27. Apparatus as defined in claim 26 wherein said means for magnetically connecting comprises at least one magnet rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said first rod.

28. Apparatus as defined in claim 27 wherein said means for magnetically connecting further comprises a magnet housing assembly rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said first rod.

29. Apparatus for opening and closing a portal having first and second ends in a structure comprising, in combination:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins of said portal, wherein each said lateral margin has a magnetically attractable support surface;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of the lateral margins, with said first end being fixedly attached across said portal at a first

end thereof, said second end folded back on itself to define a pocket opening toward said first end;

c) a first elongated rod captured within said pocket;

d) means operatively connected to said second end for varying the height of said pocket;

e) a second elongated rod supported on and separated from said elongated rod by said second end of said curtain; and

f) means for magnetically connecting opposing ends of said second rod to said lateral margins.

30. Apparatus as defined in claim 29 wherein said means for magnetically connecting comprises at least one magnet rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said second rod.

31. Apparatus as defined in claim 30 wherein said means for magnetically connecting further comprises a magnet housing assembly rotatably mounted to each said opposing end of said second rod.

32. Apparatus for opening and closing a portal having first and second ends in a structure comprising, in combination:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins of said portal, wherein each said lateral margin has a magnetically attractable support surface;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of the lateral margins, with said first end being fixedly attached across said portal at a first

end thereof, said second end folded back on itself to define a pocket opening toward said first end;

c) a first elongated rod captured within said pocket, said first rod having opposing ends;

d) means operatively connected to said second end for varying the height of said pocket; and

e) at least one magnet operatively connected to each said opposing end of said first rod with said at least one magnet providing discrete areas that contain sufficient magnetic flux density to retain each said end of said first rod to said magnetically attractable surface of said lateral margin.

33. Apparatus as defined in claim 32 wherein said at least one magnet is rotatably mounted to said first rod.

34. Apparatus as defined in claim 33 wherein said at least one magnet is cylindrical.

35. Apparatus for opening and closing a portal having first and second ends in a structure comprising, in combination:

a) a pair of spaced apart opposing lateral margins of said portal, wherein each said lateral margin has a magnetically attractable support surface;

b) a flexible curtain having elongated side portions, a first end and a second end each having a dimension commensurate with the separation of the lateral margins, with said first end being fixedly attached across said portal at a first end thereof, said second end folded back on itself to define a pocket opening toward said first end;

c) a first elongated rod captured within said pocket;

d) means operatively connected to said second end for varying the height of said pocket;

e) a second elongated rod supported on and separated from said elongated rod by said second end of said curtain; and

f) at least one magnet operatively connected to each opposing end of said second rod with said at least one magnet providing discrete areas that contain sufficient magnetic flux density to retain each said end of said second rod to said magnetically attractable surface of said lateral margin.

36. Apparatus as defined in claim 35 wherein said at least one magnet is rotatably mounted to said second rod.

37. Apparatus as defined in claim 36 wherein said at least one magnet is cylindrical.